The Simpsons

"Survival of the Fattest"

Written By

Rob Hammersley

&

Todd J. Greenwald

"Survival of the Fattest"

Written by
Rob Hammersley & Todd J. Greenwald

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. LIVING ROOM SET - DAY

TROY MCLURE stands with his extremely hairy back to camera.

TROY MCCLURE

Are you embarrassed by unsightly back hair?... I know I am.

He turns around to reveal he's wearing a barber smock that reads "I'M WELL ENDOWED... WITH HAIR!"

TROY MCCLURE (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Troy McClure! You may remember me from endorsing such products as "The Electric Shower Fax" and "My Lil' Stomachpump." Now I'd like to tell you about a revolutionary new product that can turn your nappy back...

Full screen photo of a depressed guy with ugly back hair.

TROY MCCLURE (CONT'D)

...into a happy back!

CUT TO the same guy with a well coifed back. BIKINI CLAD GIRLS cling to his arms. He looks happy. CUT BACK TO Troy, who holds a long vacuum attachment.

TROY MCCLURE (CONT'D)

From the makers of the 'Toupee-Away', it's the Back Beautician! And it's so easy to use. Simply attach it to any household leaf blower, put on your protective helmet, and style, style, style!

He hooks up the attachment, puts on a hard-hat, then turns on the leafblower.

TROY MCCLURE (CONT'D)

This is a great product! But don't take my word for it. Listen to these satisfied customers.

A RASTAFARIAN styles dreadlocks on his back to match his head. He switches off the machine.

RASTAFARIAN

'Dis ting is better 'dan (BLEEP), mon!

KRUSTY THE CLOWN shapes the RAINBOW COLORED hair on his back. He doesn't shut his styler off.

KRUSTY

It's absolutely hair-riffic! Waaaaa!!!

The machine starts blowing like a hurricane, sending him flying out the door. CUT TO a product shot of the Back Beautician.

DEEP VOICED ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(QUICKLY) Manufacturer is not responsible for burns, nausea, or dismemberment related to the use of this product.

TROY MCCLURE

Order now and if you're not completely

satisfied we'll give you your money...

"back."

He gives an exaggerated wink and flashes an 'OK' sign to the camera.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

HOMER sits on the couch.

HOMER

Heh! What a waste of money.

The CAMERA WIDENS to reveal Homer surrounded by an Abdominizer, Ginsu Knives and lots of Chia Pets. He struggles to flex a "Thigh Master" between his legs. As he reaches for a beer, the Thigh Master pops out and **CRASHES** through the window. We hear a cat **SCREECH**, a woman **SCREAM**, then a car **CRASH**. Homer innocently sits silent for a beat.

ON TV

"NEWSFLASH" graphic. KENT BROCKMAN sits at the news desk.

KENT BROCKMAN

After a long and exhaustive selection

process, Springfield has been chosen

as the site of the next environmental

research biosphere. We go to the

scene just moments ago.

INT. CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

A huge CROWD is assembled as FOUR SCIENTISTS stand on a stage, spinning a cage of ping-pong balls. One ball rolls out. A scientist picks it up and reads it.

SCIENTIST

Springfield!

INT. MOE'S TAVERN - DAY

BARFLIES, watching the TV, **CHEER.** BARNEY is being interviewed.

REPORTER

What are your thoughts on the biosphere coming to Springfield?

BARNEY

Hi, Mom! I'm on TV! (BURPS)

BACK TO SCENE

HOMER

A bimbo-sphere! Woo-hoo! It's about time this town got another strip joint!

LISA

No, dad, it's a biosphere -- a science experiment.

Homer stares blankly.

LISA (CONT'D)

A self-contained animated environment.

Homer stares blankly.

LISA (CONT'D)

It's sort of like a human habitrail.

HOMER

Oh, I get it.

HOMER'S DREAM BUBBLE

We see Homer inside a habitrail slurping from an attached plastic bottle labeled "Duffs."

BACK TO SCENE

The doorbell **RINGS.** Homer opens the door to see the FLANDERS FAMILY donned in Santa caps and scarves.

FLANDERS FAMILY

(SINGING) We wish you a merry

Christmas! We wish you a merry

Christmas...

HOMER

Flanders, what are you doing? It's

the middle of July.

NED

Just tunin' up the old throat chords

for the ho-ho-holidays. It's never

too early to toss around a little

Yuletide cheer.

Homer **SLAMS** the door in his face. The doorbell **RINGS.** Homer answers it.

FLANDERS FAMILY

(SINGING) Jingle bells! Jingle bells!

Ji...

Homer **SLAMS** the door again. The doorbell **RINGS.** Homer answers it. ED MCMAHON and his SWEEPSTAKES PRIZE PATROL stand in the doorway. Ed holds an oversized check.

ED MCMAHON

Homer Simpson, you just won ten mil...

Homer **SLAMS** the door.

HOMER

Doh!

He opens the door. The Prize Patrol van **SPEEDS** off leaving a cloud of dust.

HOMER (CONT'D)

That Flanders! He makes me sick to my stomach!

Homer spots something in the crack of the couch.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Ooo -- pizza!

He takes a hearty bite.

MARGE

You shouldn't be so hard on Ned. He's been a good neighbor ever since we've lived here.

HOMER

What has he ever done for us besides lend us things, do us favors and save our children from an occasional house fire?

MARGE

(THINKING) Well, then I guess nothing.

HOMER

My point exactly!

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPRINGFIELD TOWN HALL - THAT NIGHT

Several PROTESTERS hold up picket signs reading "No Biosphere in Springfield," "Biosphere = Die-osphere" and another held by Reverend Lovejoy reads "Will Exorcise for Food" POLICE CHIEF WIGGUM and other COPS maintain crowd control.

WIGGUM

Remember, men, don't use force unless absolutely necessary.

Wiggum spies a LITTLE KID sneaking a doughnut out of a cop car.

WIGGUM (CONT'D)

Hands off those crullers, fat boy!

Wiggum **OPENS FIRE** and charges the kid.

INT. SPRINGFIELD TOWN HALL - CONTINUOUS

The TOWN is assembled, awaiting the meeting to begin. The Simpsons walk in. Homer is not happy.

HOMER

(WHINING) Aw, Marge, why'd you have to drag me here? I was supposed to go to Moe's for another night of endless drinking and pointless conversation.

MARGE

Because this will be interesting. And you might actually learn something.

HOMER

Learn?! What do you think I got Hooked On Phonics for?

MAYOR QUIMBY steps up to the podium and **BANGS** the gavel.

QUIMBY

Before we begin there is one quick announcement. The Monte Burns Community Park will be closed Friday for nuclear testing, but will reopen Saturday for family picnic day.

Audience **CHEERS.**

QUIMBY (CONT'D)

Now I'd like to turn the stage over to Professor Stockholm from the Helsinki Institute of Biospheres.

There is light **APPLAUSE** as a Swedish SCIENTIST approaches the podium.

PROFESSOR STOCKHOLM

Mayor, I zank you and Sveden zanks you.

Quimby stands smiling in the wings with his arms around gorgeous SWEDISH TWINS.

PROFESSOR STOCKHOLM (CONT'D)

I know everyone has many qvestions, so ve haf prepared zis short film.

ANGLE - THE AUDIENCE

The lights go down. The flickering movie illuminates the audience's faces. We watch them as we hear the film begin.

MACHO STUD (V.O.)

I'm here to check out your pool.

SEDUCTIVE BABE (V.O.)

Why don't you check out these?

Suddenly **CHEEZY SEVENTIES PORNO RIFF** blasts. The crowd **GASPS** as every mouth in the audience hits the floor.

BART

Aye caramba! Those are two of the

biggest biospheres I've ever seen!

ANGLE - OTTO

OTTO, running the projector, quickly turns it off.

OTTO

Whoa! Sorry, man, wrong meeting.

He quickly pops on another reel and starts the movie.

ANGLE - MOVIE SCREEN

The movie begins. The sun is shining on a domed-shaped structure. A rainbow arches over it.

HAPPY ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

The biosphere is proud to be a part

of... (INSERT MONOTONE VOICE)

Springfield.

A stretch limo pulls up in front of the biosphere. The license plate reads "LUCKY." A TYPICAL FAMILY gets out.

HAPPY ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Our committee will be choosing one

lucky family to spend 365 nature-

filled days and 364 starry nights in

our luxurious, state of the art

biosphere.

HOMER (O.S.)

Bor-ing!!

HAPPY ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Once inside, you get to experience all

of our exotic climates including the

desert region...

The family is lying on beach towels catching some rays and waving.

HAPPY ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Our tropical rain forest...

The now sunburned family stands in the middle of a jungle smiling and waving. It's pouring rain.

HAPPY ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

And even the Arctic tundra.

Each family member waves as they **ZIP** by on a luge.

HOMER (O.S.)

Stu-pid!!

HAPPY ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

You'll live off the land and enjoy all

that nature has to offer.

The mother wheels a bamboo shopping cart through the forest. She stops at a tree and gives it a **WHACK**. The cart instantly fills up with exotic fruits.

HAPPY ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Plus you won't have to worry about the

day-to-day hassles of the outside

world.

The mother and father are playing tennis on a grass tennis court with bamboo racquets and a coconut ball. Behind them, outside the biosphere, tanks roll through the streets. In the distance, an atom bomb **EXPLODES** and a mushroom cloud rises in the air.

HAPPY ANNOUNCER (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Sound enticing? I thought so. But that's not all. If your family is chosen, we'll pay you fifty thousand pesos!

HOMER (O.S.)

Ya-hoo!

EXT. SPRINGFIELD TOWN SQUARE - DAY

The Biosphere tryouts are in progress. Various test stations are set up around the square. It looks like a big carnival.

MONTAGE

A. Barney is spinning on the human gyroscope. Scientists stand by taking notes on clip boards.

BARNEY

Uh-oh, I don't think I should've had that last burrito!

The crowd around him runs off **SHRIEKING** in terror. Barney is left alone spinning out of control.

B. MR. BURNS is stretched out on a torture rack. A scientist turns a wheel stretching Burns out even more. SMITHERS stands nearby.

BURNS

Ow! Aah! Tighter! Smithers, I want one of these in my office by Monday.

C. Apu and his family are seated in a G-force machine. A scientists straps them in. Apu hands him a squishee.

APU

I wish for you to enjoy this with my many compliments.

The scientist starts the machine. It slowly builds speed with each rotation. The guy takes a big chug of his squishee. He instantly looks pained as he drops the drink, grabs his head and screams.

SCIENTIST

Aahhh!! Brain freeze!!

The spilled squishee oozes into the control panel causing **SPARKS** to fly. The spinning machine quickly speeds up, when suddenly, it unattaches and soars through the air into the horizon.

EXT. REGISTRATION AREA - CONTINUOUS

The Flanders are in line in front of a table marked "Sign up here." Several technicians in white lab coats are interviewing families. The Simpsons step up behind Ned.

NED

Hey-diddily-hey, Simpson. Fancy

seeing you here.

HOMER

Flanders, you might as well go home

right now because we're getting picked

and you're not.

NED

(CHUCKLING) There's nothing like a

little good-natured neighborly rivalry

to get those competitive juices

flowing.

TECHNICIAN

Next.

HOMER

Hey, look! It's the pope!

Ned quickly looks. Homer grabs his family and cuts in front of him.

HOMER

That'd be us. (CONFIDENTIALLY TO HIS FAMILY) Now remember, just let me do all the talking.

TECHNICIAN

Name?

HOMER

Simpson... Dr. Homer Simpson.

TECHNICIAN

Well, Dr. Simpson, what type of medicine do you practice?

HOMER

(SEARCHING) Oh, uh...

Bart whispers something in his ear.

HOMER (CONT'D)

The nighttime sniffling, sneezing, coughing, aching, stuffy-head, fever... (THEN, REALIZING) Bart!

TECHNICIAN

Does anyone in your family have a history of medical problems or allergies?

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - FLASHBACK

Homer and Lisa are sitting on the couch watching TV. A bee flies in, lands on Lisa's arm and stings her. She screams, then instantly balloons up and floats to the ceiling. Homer looks around seeing no one.

HOMER

What was that?

BACK TO SCENE

HOMER

Not a one.

TECHNICIAN

Great. You're all finished.

HOMER

Whew! That was tougher than I thought. So, are we in?

TECHNICIAN

You still have to go through the tests.

HOMER

Tests? What the hell was that?

TECHNICIAN

That was registration.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

INT. SIMULATED JUNGLE ROOM - LATER

TECHNICIAN

Our first test is designed to see how you would survive in the wild. Using your slingshots, the object is to attack the hunters...

The technician pushes a button and a cardboard cutout of a TIGER swings out.

TECHNICIAN (CONT'D)

...and protect the hunted.

He presses another button and a cutout of a woman swings out.

HOMER

Gotcha, Doc. (TO FAMILY) Let's go

kick some jungle butt!

WILD ANIMAL SOUNDS play as the Simpsons, armed with their slingshots, hesitantly take a few steps into the mock jungle set up. Suddenly, a cutout of a NURSE pushing an ELDERLY MAN in a wheelchair whips out from behind a tree.

HOMER

Fire!

Everyone UNLOADS their slingshots. Rocks fly through the air, decapitating the nurse and the old man.

LISA

Oops.

BART

Oops, nothing. It looked like the old

geezer was packin' heat!

MARGE

Let's just try to be a little more

careful.

Homer steps into the brush. Suddenly, he's nailed in the back of the head with a rock. He **SCREAMS**, then turns to see a guilty-looking Bart.

BART

Sorry. I thought I saw something.

HOMER

Why you little...

Homer aims his slingshot at Bart. Bart quickly dives under a bush. Homer **FIRES.** Just then, a cutout of a LION swings out from behind the bush. The rock ricochets off the swinging lion and **SMACKS** Homer in the forehead.

LISA

Nice shot, dad.

Bart rolls on the ground **LAUGHING** hysterically. Homer lunges at Bart. Marge and Lisa try to break up the fight, but only get involved.

TECHNICIAN

Now hold on a minute, folks, you're supposed to attack the animals, not each other.

A rock **WHACKS** him between the eyes, cracking his glasses. Everyone stops fighting.

TECHNICIAN (CONT'D)

That is all we'll be needing from you today. Take your scorecard to the registration desk.

MARGE

But what about the other tests?

TECHNICIAN

I've seen just about all I needed to see.

He hands Homer a scorecard and walks off holding his face. Homer looks at the card which reads "Chances of Survival: 0%"

LISA

How did we do, Dad?

Homer furtively changes the score to 100%.

HOMER

We did very well. You should be proud to be a Simpson.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NEXT DAY

The family is sitting on the couch watching TV.

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

We interrupt tonight's movie, Dog Day 'Shaft'-ernoon, to bring you the results of the biosphere selection tests.

LISA

This is it!

ON TV

SUPER: BIOSPHERE PRESS CONFERENCE

Professor Stockholm stands at a podium.

PROFESSOR STOCKHOLM

Ve are proud to announce that there vere <u>two</u> families that scored perfectly on our exams. So, ve have decided to select zem both. First, ze Homer Simpson family.

BACK TO SCENE

Homer dances around doing a touchdown-like celebration.

HOMER

Yes! I knew it! We're number one!

PROFESSOR STOCKHOLM (O.S.)

And second, the Ned Flanders family.

HOMER

AAAaaaaaahhhhhhhh!!!

Homer drops to the floor with a **THUD.**

FADE OUT:

<u>END OF ACT ONE</u>

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A WEEK LATER

The family is packing and making last minute preparations for their trip. Homer and Bart stand looking out the window through binoculars. In the distance, the biosphere sets atop a hillside.

HOMER

There she is. In all her glory.

BART

Yeah. I'm sure going to miss this house.

BINOCULAR P.O.V. - HOUSE ACROSS THE STREET

A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN is in her room changing. As she goes to take off her top, she spies Homer and Bart looking and quickly shuts the shade.

HOMER

Doh!

ANGLE - KITCHEN

Marge is talking to her sisters PATTY and SELMA.

PATTY

Marge, I think your hair is finally weighing down your brain. This whole biosphere idea is nuts.

SELMA

Yeah, and with Homer in charge, you won't last longer than a bottle of scotch at the Betty Ford Clinic.

Patty and Selma exchange proud **LAUGHTER.**

MARGE

I think this will be a good chance for us to grow as a family. And besides, I have complete faith that my Homie will take good care of us.

ANGLE - LIVING ROOM

Homer is "beet" red and sweating profusely as he struggles to open a small snack.

HOMER

Damn airline peanuts!!!!

Homer pulls out a hammer and starts **POUNDING** the bag. The doorbell **RINGS.** Lisa answers it. A MAILMAN holds a large box.

MAILMAN

I have a delivery for Sy Gold.

LISA

I'm sorry. You have the wrong...

Bart quickly steps in and pushes Lisa aside.

BART

I'm Sy Gold. Shalom.

MAILMAN

I have a hundred CDs here from the 'Show Me Your Hits' compact disc club. Sign here.

The mailman gives Bart a clipboard. He signs it.

BART

Just tell them to send the bill here in a week.

Bart shuts the door.

BART (CONT'D)

Heh heh. Suckers.

SFX - HONKING BUS

HOMER

This is it, Simpsons! When we walk out that door, it'll be one small step for man... let's go.

EXT. SIMPSON/FLANDERS HOUSES - CONTINUOUS

A bus pulls up engulfed in its own exhaust fumes. As the smoke clears a sign on the bus reads "Biosphere: For A Cleaner Tomorrow." The Simpsons exit their house. Patty and Selma see them off.

MARGE

Thanks for watching the house. Remember, water the plants on Tuesdays and Thursdays and floss Grampa's dentures every other Sunday.

The Flanders exit their house happy as can be.

FLANDERS FAMILY

(SINGING) Ninety-nine bibles of God on the wall, ninety-nine bibles of God. Take one down, praise it around, ninety-eight bibles of God on the wall...

HOMER

(ANNOYED) Marge, I'm ready for the Flanders. I refuse to let them ruin my trip.

Homer puts on a large set of earphones. He stands with his back to the bus and smiles at the Flanders as they get on with the rest of the Simpsons.

MARGE

(FROM THE BUS) Come on, Homer.

Homer, not hearing, still stands smiling as the bus closes its doors.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Homer, let's go!

The bus takes off, shooting a cloud of smoke in Homer's face. Realizing he's left behind, Homer **SCREAMS** and chases the bus.

EXT. BIOSPHERE ENTRANCE - LATER - DAY

The town is gathered for the sealing of the biosphere ceremony. Mayor Quimby stands in front of a ribbon holding a large pair of scissors.

QUIMBY

I hereby announce the official opening

and, er, closing of the Springfield

biosphere!

The crowd **APPLAUDS** as Quimby cuts the ribbon. PULL OUT to reveal the ribbon was holding up the dome. It instantly deflates like a punctured balloon. The crowd goes silent.

EXT. BIOSPHERE ENTRANCE - LATER - NIGHT

It's now dark. The structure is reinflated as the mayor, now holding a bottle of champagne, stands in front of a smaller crowd.

QUIMBY

With this christening, I send

Springfield and the biosphere into the

future!

Quimby **SMACKS** the side of the biosphere with the champagne bottle. The bottle remains intact, knocking a hole in the wall. Again, the biosphere deflates to the ground.

EXT. BIOSPHERE ENTRANCE - LATER - NEXT MORNING

The sun is rising and roosters are **CROWING.** Quimby stands alone with the Flanders and the Simpsons.

QUIMBY

Enough with the ceremonial mumbo-jumbo. Get your guinea pig butts in there.

Quimby shoves them in and closes a large, safe-like door. It **SLAMS** with a loud echo.

INT. BIOSPHERE - CONTINUOUS

The two families awkwardly stand around looking at each other not knowing what to do.

NED

(BREAKING THE SILENCE) So... last one to build their hut is a rotten oinkely-doinkely.

HOMER

Build? I thought they said all we had to do is pick the hut we wanted.

NED

Yes-er-oony. You pick the hut you want to build. It's all right here in this handy-dandy survival guide they gave us. Where's yours?

Ned holds up a really thick book entitled, "Your Bio-Survival Guide: The Difference Between Life and Death."

HOMER'S THOUGHT BUBBLE - FLASHBACK

Homer is at the kitchen table. He **CRACKS** open a beer and sets it down. It slides off and onto the floor. He looks down to see one of the legs is shorter than the others. He grabs his survival guide and puts it under the short leg. Homer opens another beer and puts it down. It doesn't move. He looks happy.

HOMER

Aaahhh!

BACK TO SCENE

HOMER

(INNOCENTLY) I didn't get one.

NED

Well, my neighborly helping hand invitation is extended right here into the biosphere.

HOMER

Let's get one thing straight here, Flanders. I can take care of my family just fine. The last thing I need is help from you!

NED

Your barn door's open.

Homer zips up his fly.

HOMER

Thanks.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BIOSPHERE - WOODED AREA - LATER

Homer is putting the finishing touches on a pathetic looking skeleton of a shack.

HOMER

One more board and I'm done. Bart,

give me another nail.

Bart **SPITS** out a wad of gum and hands it to Homer, who wedges it between two sticks.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Finished! Well, what do you know, I'm

done and Mr. Helping Hand hasn't even

started.

In the distance, the Flanders family stands around two palm trees that are bent to the ground. Ned cuts a rope and the trees snap up erecting an elegant wooden house.

BART

Wow, sweet pad!

HOMER

Beginner's luck.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BIOSPHERE - GRASS PASTURE - DAY

Homer and Bart hide behind a bush as they spy lambs grazing.

HOMER

Behold - the mighty lamb. Soon to be

our bountiful feast. All we need to

do is make a blowgun from the fruits

of the land.

BART

Since when do you know so much about hunting?

HOMER

Since I saw Chaka do it on "Land of the Lost." Now, I'll get some bamboo chutes and you get some needles.

BART

How do you expect me to do that?

HOMER

Just walk over to that porcupine, tickle its belly and when it laughs, take some needles.

BART

Walk, tickle, take - check.

Bart walks off as Homer starts **WHACKING** down some bamboo.

BART (O.S.)

AAAAAaaaahhhh!!!!!

Bart walks back covered head to toe in porcupine quills.

BART (CONT'D)

He didn't think it was funny.

HOMER

Good job, boy.

Homer **PLUCKS** a needle off Bart and loads it into the bamboo.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Just sit back, watch and learn.

Homer aims the blowgun at the lamb and blows. The dart barely falls out of the end.

BART

Maybe you should take a deeper breath.

Homer loads the blowgun and inhales hard, accidentally sucking the dart into the back of his throat. He runs wildly around the field clutching his throat, then drops to the ground.

INT. BIOSPHERE - LAKE - LATER

Homer and Bart stand on the shore holding spears. Fish are jumping out of the water everywhere.

HOMER

Now remember, a good sportsman always

observes the three S's of fishing --

silence, safety and... sssbait.

BART

Alright, let's fish.

They try spearing the fish. After several unsuccessful tries, Homer stabs a tiny one.

HOMER

Woo-hoo! I got one!

A large fish jumps up and eats Homer's fish off the stick.

HOMER (CONT'D)

What the...

Homer dives into the water, spear first. We hear a **POP**. All the water and fish drain down a big hole as Homer sits on the artificial floor that reads, "NEV-R-TEAR LAKE BOTTOMS."

BART

I'll give you a nine for the entry,

but the excessive splash will knock

you down two points to a seven.

A fish **POPS** out of Homer's mouth and down the hole.

INT. BIOSPHERE - WOODED AREA - LATER

Homer carries one end of a large stick over his shoulder.

HOMER

Son, we can finally hold our heads up high. We have conquered the wild!

ANGLE - BART

He carries the other end of the stick over his shoulder.

BART

(SARCASTIC) I never knew the thrill of the kill could be so exciting.

ANGLE - HOMER

HOMER

(PROUD) You see, hunting is a sport of instinct. It's knowing how to stalk your prey, waiting for just the right moment, then finishing him off with cat-like quickness.

PULL OUT to reveal Bart and Homer are carrying a single banana tied to the middle of the stick.

BART

So what's the story this time -- you wrestled a pack of monkeys for it?

HOMER

That sounds good.

INT. BIOSPHERE - SIMPSON SHACK - LATER

The guys approach their shack. Marge, Lisa and Maggie come out looking dirty and tired.

LISA

Oh, boy. Banana... again. What are we going to do tonight, kabob it?

HOMER

Whatever you do, I got dibs on the peel.

MARGE

Homer, I hate to be the negative one, but it's been a week now and all we've had to eat is five bananas and a bunch of sticks. I don't know how long we can survive like this.

HOMER

So we're off to a slow start. These biospheres take a while to get used to. You can't expect us to live high off the hog in the first week.

SFX - CLANGING DINNER BELL

Flanders stands on his porch ringing a triangle. In front of him is a huge buffet loaded with various foods. Everyone is wearing sombreros.

NED

Que pasa, mi neighburritos! We decided to go Mexican tonight. Why don't you come over and give the old piñata a whack?

HOMER

No... and that's Mexican for no!

MARGE

Homer, I think it's about time you let Ned help us. We could work as a team, so we can all enjoy this experience.

BART

Yeah, because this sucks.

HOMER

Flanders, I'm the king of this family and if they're going to rely on anyone, it's going to be me!

NED

If you change your mind, mi casa es su casa!

HOMER

(TO HIS FAMILY) Don't worry, we'll be just fine. We've survived one week, fifty-one more won't kill us.

INT. BIOSPHERE - SIMPSON SHACK - NIGHT

SUPER: ONE WEEK LATER

The family is under their shelter hovered together and shivering. Homer is rubbing two sticks together.

HOMER

I've almost got it. I think I see smoke.

A spark lands on some leaves and ignites a small fire.

HOMER (CONT'D)

I did it! I said let there be fire, and there was fire, and it was good!

MARGE

Maybe I was a little premature in doubting you.

LISA

Way to go, Dad. This could be a whole new start for us.

HOMER

All you naysayers didn't believe in me. Well, this will show you...

Suddenly, a spark flies and lands on the wall. Instantly, the whole shack goes up in flames. All that's left is falling ashes. The fire is out. Homer stares blankly in disbelief.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Let's go to sleep.

They all lay down. One by one, they all fall asleep. After a beat, several snowflakes start to fall.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BIOSPHERE - SIMPSON SHACK - NEXT MORNING

Everything is covered with snow. Only the top of Marge's hair sticks out. In the distance, the sound of dogs **BARKING** gets closer. Everyone wakes up and pops out of the snow. The Flanders, dressed like Eskimos, pull up in a dog sled.

NED

Activity update! Snow angel making on our front yard in ten tickly ticks of the clock!

TOD

Dad, when we're done, can I shovel the yard?

ROD

No fair, last night he got to clean the dishes.

NED

Stop quarreling children, there're enough chores to go around for everyone!

TOD/ROD

Yipee!

NED

Hope to see you there, Simpson. Mush!

They sled off. The Simpsons look cold and miserable.

BART

Mom, I can't see. My eyelids are frozen shut.

LISA

(NASAL) So are my nostrils! If I sneeze, my head will explode!

MARGE

Homer, the kids are miserable and I'm miserable. I think we should go to the Flanders and let them help us.

HOMER

Come on, Marge, don't let a little frostbite and starvation get you down. If you leave, you'll just be telling me that I'm no good.

BART

Later, Homer.

LISA

Sorry, dad.

MARGE

When you swallow your pride, you'll

know where we'll be.

Homer's family walks off to the Flanders' house. Homer is left alone. Rejected, he starts to wander away.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. BIOSPHERE DESERT - DAY

Homer is staggering aimlessly through the desert. He looks sunstroked, tired and weak.

HOMER

Why did I ever do this stupid biosphere thing? My family hates me... I'm totally worthless... and to top it all off, I haven't had a beer in two weeks. (REALIZING) Two weeks!

Homer passes out.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY - HOMER'S DREAM

The courtroom is packed. The Simpsons and Flanders watch on as a TOM CRUISE-TYPE LAWYER questions Homer, who is sitting on the witness stand. Krusty the clown is the judge.

LAWYER

Homer Simpson, did you or did you not force your family into the biosphere all for your own personal greed?

HOMER

Absolutely not!

LAWYER

Let me remind you, you're still under oath.

HOMER

Oh, then I did.

LAWYER

Do you consider yourself a good father?

HOMER

Do you want answers?

LAWYER

(RAISING HIS VOICE) I think I'm entitled.

HOMER

(YELLING) Do you want answers?

LAWYER

(SCREAMING) I want the truth!

HOMER

(EVEN LOUDER) You can't handle the truth!!

LAWYER

(LOUDER THAN THAT) Do you consider yourself a good father?!

HOMER

(WORLD RECORD LOUDNESS) No!

All the glass in the courtroom **SHATTERS.** Everyone **GASPS** in shock.

HOMER (CONT'D)

What? What did I say?

KRUSTY

The jury will now leave the courtroom for deliberations.

The JURY gets up and walks into the deliberation room. The door shuts, then instantly opens and they re-enter. A juror holds the verdict.

JUROR

We, the jury, find Homer Simpson

guilty of being an inadequate provider

and hereby turn custody of his family

over to the most perfect father in the

world, Ned Flanders.

KRUSTY

This case is closed!

Krusty bangs his gavel. It **SQUEAKS** like a clown's nose. The Simpsons give Ned a big hug. Homer looks on in horror.

HOMER

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!

MATCH DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BIOSPHERE - DESERT - DAY

Homer quickly wakes up at the sound of his own screaming.

HOMER

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!! (THEN) Whew.

What a dream. That was scary.

He looks around to see that he is surrounded by a bunch of hungry-looking BUZZARDS.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!!

He starts frantically running. He trips over a cow skull and flies head-first into the sand. He looks up and sees a MAN sitting in a chaise lounge with a gorgeous WOMAN, sipping a coconut drink.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Holy moly! It's Dick Van Patten!

What are you doing here?

DICK VAN PATTEN

Homer, I'm your fantasy.

HOMER

Then who's the looker?

DICK VAN PATTEN

Oh, she's my fantasy. (TO GIRL) I'll catch up with you later, Toots.

The girl **GIGGLES**, then disappears into a **PUFF** of smoke.

DICK VAN PATTEN (CONT'D)

Homer, I've had a lot of experience being a father -- on television and in real life. I've faced just about every problem a parent could have. That's why I've been sent here to help you. You can ask me anything you want.

HOMER

Anything?

DICK VAN PATTEN

Anything.

HOMER

Do you think it was a good career move for Willie Aames to do "Charles In Charge?"

DICK VAN PATTEN

Maybe you don't understand...

HOMER

Is Adam Rich still in jail?

DICK VAN PATTEN

That's not why I'm here...

HOMER

If you had another kid, would the show be called "Nine Is Enough?"

DICK VAN PATTEN

(FRUSTRATED) Homer! Questions about your family! You remember, the ones who left you.

HOMER

Oh, right.

DICK VAN PATTEN

I want you to see something. Come here and look into my piña colada.

As Homer looks into his drink, he can see his family at the Flanders hut. The camera ZOOMS IN on the drink.

INT. FLANDERS HUT - CONTINUOUS

Homer's family is playing charades with the Flanders. Ned staggers across the room wearing a sheet and carrying two large books. The Simpsons look terribly bored.

TOD

Lazarus rising from the grave?

ROD

Jesus healing the blind?

BART

Some dork wearing a sheet carrying two books?

NED

(LAUGHING) You're all wrong. It's Moses bringing down the tablets from on high.

FLANDERS

(DISAPPOINTED) Awwwww.

NED

Don't fret a sweat. We still haven't hit the New Testament yet.

SIMPSONS

(DISAPPOINTED) Awwwww.

The camera ZOOMS OUT of the drink.

BACK TO SCENE

Homer is shocked at what he sees.

HOMER

Oh no! He's trying to brainwash them! Make it stop!

DICK VAN PATTEN

I can't. But you can. You have to show your family you're responsible and you can take care of them.

HOMER

But I'm a lousy dad. Everything I do just blows up in my face.

DICK VAN PATTEN

Homer, follow me. I'm going to help you.

They start walking across the desert.

INT. BIOSPHERE - WOODED STREAM AREA - LATER

Dick and Homer approach a waterfall.

DICK VAN PATTEN

I'm giving you two options. Behind that waterfall is a way out of the biosphere. You can leave, give up on your family and live your life ridden with guilt. Or you can stay here, go back to your family and show them that you're the best father you can be.

HOMER

I have one question... can you arrange a shuttle back to my house?

DICK VAN PATTEN

(STARTING TO DISAPPEAR) Homer, you're on your own now. If you need any more help, just listen to your heart.

Dick Van Patten disappears.

HOMER

Well, heart, I'm going back to Springfield. My family will be better off without me.

He walks behind the waterfall and enters a tunnel. He starts to walk down it.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Stupid biosphere. This thing was supposed to be easy. I'm just a loser... with a capital loo!

He suddenly comes upon a door marked "Do Not Enter." He enters.

INT. SECRET ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jimmy Hoffa, Elvis and Bigfoot sit around a table playing poker.

JIMMY HOFFA

I call you, King.

BIGFOOT

Too rich for my blood. I fold.

ELVIS

Viva Las Vegas, Hoffa. Full house.

Homer shuts the door, pauses a moment in disbelief, then continues down the tunnel.

INT. FLANDERS HUT - NIGHT

The Simpsons are sitting around a fire roasting marshmallows.

MARGE

You know, I'm really starting to worry about your father.

Ned sticks his head in the door.

NED

Arts and crafts in ten minutes!

He leaves.

LISA

Yeah, and this happy routine is getting old fast.

BART

If I sing one more verse of Kum-ba-yah I'm going to beat someone with a hymnal.

MARGE

The Flanders have been nice enough to let us into their home. I think the least we can do is pretend to enjoy ourselves.

LISA

But what about Dad?

MARGE

I don't know, Lisa. Maybe your father just needs some time alone. But for now, you kids put on happy faces and grab your smocks.

BART

This bites!

Bart tosses his marshmallow at the fire, but misses. Not noticing, they all leave. His stick starts to smolder, then catches a flame against some nearby logs.

INT. TUNNEL - LATER

Homer arrives at a door reading "Exit to Springfield - No Re-entry!"

HOMER

This is it! The biggest decision of my life. If I leave, I can go home and watch Matlock till my eyes fall out.

(MORE)

HOMER (CONT'D)

Or if I stay, I can suck up to

Flanders like the pathetic boob that I

am.

He pulls out a coin.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Heads I walk - tails I stay.

He flips the coin. It lands on tails.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Okay, two out of three.

EXT. BIOSPHERE - FLANDERS HUT - LATER

We see the bottom floor is engulfed in flames. The smoke is beginning to rise.

INT. BIOSPHERE - FLANDERS HUT UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Ned is putting the finishing touches on a painting. Everyone gathers around his easel.

NED

Alright, everyone, take a gander and

tell me what you think.

Reveal a canvas filled with dots and abstract images.

LISA

What is that?

ROD

Wait, it's coming. Ooh, I see it.

It's Noah's Ark!

BART

What?

TOD

It's a three dimensional picture. The image will come to you. Just stare through the canvas and let your eyes blur.

BART

What the hell were you smokin' when you painted this?

MARGE

Bart!

BART

No, don't you smell that smoke?

Suddenly, the room begins to fill with smoke. Ned runs over to the stairwell to see flames rising up from below.

NED

Jiminy Christmas! The house is ablaze and the stairs are gone! We're trapped!

LISA

Mom, I'm scared!

MARGE

Ned, what are we going to do?

NED

Die!!!

HOMER (O.S.)

Hey, everybody, I'm back!

BART/LISA

Dad!!

They all rush to the window to see Homer standing below.

HOMER

Hey, what's cookin'?

MARGE

Homer, the house is on fire! You've got to get us out of here!

NED

Simpson, can you build an acute rhombus ladder from cedar bark and maple sap?

HOMER'S BRAIN (V.O.)

Oh boy. My big chance to show them I'm worth something and I can do things right for once. (THEN SHOUTING, TO NED) No!

NED

(CROSSES HIMSELF) Our father, who art in heaven...

HOMER

Wait a minute! I have an idea! Jump out of the window!

MARGE

It's too far! We'll never make it!

HOMER

Oh yes you will!

Homer lies down on the ground and spreads himself out like a big X. He proudly pats his stomach.

HOMER (CONT'D)

All these years of swilling beer

finally paid off. Alright everybody,

jump!

One by one they all jump out the window and onto Homer's stomach. Each time Homer lets out an "Ooof!"

HOMER (CONT'D)

Well, that's everyone.

Homer stands up and moves.

NED (O.S.)

Geronimo!!

Ned lands with a **THUD**, face first into the ground.

HOMER

Oh. Sorry, Flanders.

LISA

Dad, you saved us!

She runs and hugs Homer. The Flanders hut becomes an inferno. Areas around the house are catching flames and the fire is growing fast.

NED

(PANICKING) But we're still locked in

here! There's no way out! This

biosphere is a tomb! We're toast!

We...

Homer knocks Ned unconscious with a swift uppercut to the chin. He throws Ned over his shoulder.

HOMER

Come on, everyone, follow me! I know a way out!

Homer runs off and everyone follows him.

EXT. BIOSPHERE - MOMENTS LATER

The biosphere is now totally engulfed in flames. An emergency exit door flies open and the families come running out.

MARGE

Oh, Homer, I was so worried about you. I didn't think you were going to come back.

HOMER

I didn't think so either, but I had a heart to heart with my heart and decided that I'm no longer going to be a fat, lazy, irresponsible father. From now on I'm going to be a fat, lazy, <u>responsible</u> father!

BART

Way to go, Homer!

LISA

Dad, you're the best father a kid could have!

Homer's family gives him a hug. Ned slowly regains consciousness.

NED

We're out! We're saved! Homer, you must be blessed.

HOMER

Nah. I just got a little help from above.

In the sky over Homer, Dick Van Patten appears. He winks at Homer and smiles. Homer winks back, then hugs his family.

FADE OUT:

THE END